

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44*bis*)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 002441.00184	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/US2005/046491	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 21 December 2005 (21.12.2005)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 22 December 2004 (22.12.2004)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant NOVARTIS VACCINES AND DIAGNOSTICS INC.		

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 *bis*.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44*bis*.3(c) and 93*bis*.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44*bis* .2).

	Date of issuance of this report 26 June 2007 (26.06.2007)
The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Athina Nickitas-Etienne
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2005/046491

International filing date (day/month/year)
21.12.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
22.12.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. C07K14/315 C12N15/31 C07K16/12

Applicant
CHIRON CORPORATION

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☒ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☒ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
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Date of completion of
this opinion

see form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/046491

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material:

- ☒ a sequence listing
- ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material:

- ☐ on paper
- ☒ in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing:

- ☒ contained in the international application as filed.
- ☒ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/046491

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of

☐ the entire international application

☒ claims Nos. 1-16

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international search (*specify*):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☒ no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos. 1-16

☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the sequence listing; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit:

☐ furnish a sequence listing on paper complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ furnish a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ pay the required late furnishing fee for the furnishing of a sequence listing in response to an invitation under Rules 13~~ter~~.1(a) or (b).

☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the tables related to the sequence listings; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit, furnish such tables in electronic form complying with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-*bis* of the Administrative Instructions, and such tables were not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in electronic form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-*bis* of the Administrative Instructions.

☒ See Supplemental Box for further details

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/046491

Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. ☒ In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees, the applicant has, within the applicable time limit:
- ☐ paid additional fees
 - ☐ paid additional fees under protest and, where applicable, the protest fee
 - ☐ paid additional fees under protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid
 - ☒ not paid additional fees
2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rule 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
- ☐ complied with
 - ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:
see separate sheet
4. Consequently, this report has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
- ☐ all parts.
 - ☒ the parts relating to claims Nos. Invention 1: 1-16 (all partially)

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-16
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-16
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-16
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/046491

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.10)
and / or
2. Non-written disclosures (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.9)
see form 210

Re Item III and IV.

This Authority agrees with the objections for lack of unity put forward by the search authority for the reasons mentioned in the search report.

The separate inventions/groups of inventions are:

Invention 1: 1-16 (all partially)

Claims insofar as they relate to the nucleic acid having SEQ ID NO: 1 and the corresponding protein having SEQ ID NO: 2

Inventions 2- 11370: Claims 1 to 16 (all partially)

Claims insofar as they relate to the nucleic acids having SEQ ID NO: 3 to 22739 (odd numbers) and the corresponding proteins having SEQ ID Nos: 2 to 22740 (even numbers)

They are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (Rule 13.1 PCT) for the following reasons:

Proteins from Streptococci are undoubtedly known. Moreover, the different proteins and/or nucleic acids have neither a specific structural (sequence) or functional feature i.e. a feature which is common to the claimed sequences but which is absent from prior art products. Thus, there is no common unifying concept which might constitute a basis for acknowledging unity.

Since no further search fees have been paid this opinion will be established with regard to group 1 i.e. the claims insofar as they relate to SEQ ID Nos: 1 and 2.

Re Item V.

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1 : DATABASE Geneseq [Online] 2 July 2002 (2002-07-02), "Streptococcus polypeptide SEQ ID NO 9444." XP002397445 retrieved from EBI accession no. GSP:ABP30134 Database accession no. ABP30134
- D2 : DATABASE JPO Proteins [Online] 17 July 2003 (2003-07-17), "Nucleic acid and protein originating in group B Streptococcus." XP002397446 retrieved from EBI accession no. JPOP:BD629260 Database accession no. BD629260
- D3 : DATABASE Geneseq [Online] 30 May 2000 (2000-05-30), "Group B Streptococcus protein sequence SEQ ID NO:49." XP002397447 retrieved from EBI accession no. GSP:AAY91320 Database accession no. AAY91320
- D4: DATABASE Geneseq [Online] 24 February 2005 (2005-02-24), "Streptococcus agalactiae protein, SEQ ID 2383." XP002397448 retrieved from EBI accession no. GSP:ADV81242 Database accession no. ADV81242

All cited documents describe a protein sequence and a corresponding DNA sequence wherein said protein sequence has an identity of 96% or more with SEQ ID NO: 2 (Although D4 being a P document relates to SEQ ID NO: 2383 of WO 02/092818 which has been published before the priority date).

Moreover, especially D1 and D4 also refer to pharmaceutical compositions comprising said protein and medical uses of said protein.

Therefore, none of the claims as presently on file meet the requirements of Article 33.3 PCT.